Customer No. 24498
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Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) Method for parent election among bridge portals in a transparent wireless bridge, said transparent wireless bridge comprising at least two bridge portals, said method comprising:

determining for each bridge portal the number of ports available to connect, to which other wireless devices may be connected;

electing a bridge portal as parent as a function of the number of such ports,

connecting the other bridge portals to the ports of the elected parent portal.

2. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the sum of the number of ports on the wireless interface of a bridge portal, called virtual ports hereafter, and of the number of physical ports of a bridge portal on the wired bus interface is limited to a predefined number, and wherein the respective number of virtual ports and physical ports is configurable.

3. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, the elected portal is the only portal that may or may not be root on a local bus connected to that elected portal.

4. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising triggering the election of the parent bridge portal following the association of a new bridge portal.

5. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 4, further comprising, prior to triggering the election, verifying whether the current parent portal has a free virtual port, and in the affirmative, connecting the new portal to that port without triggering the election.

6. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising rejecting the connection of a new portal if the connection of the new portal would result in an invalid topology.

7. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further comprising storing, at the level of a portal device, at least one of the following:

the failure cause of a connection of the portal to the parent portal,

the failure of association of the portal a central controller of the wireless bridge,

the failure cause of becoming the parent portal.

8. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the portal elected as parent portal is the portal with the greatest number of virtual ports.

9. (Previously presented) Bridge portal device for connection to a wireless bridge comprising a first interface to a wired bus and a second interface to the wireless bridge, comprising microprocessor means for managing ports on its wireless interface for connection to wireless devices according to topology rules defined for the wired bus, said microprocessor means being adapted to participate in a parent portal election process among bridge portals which is a function of the availability of free ports on the wireless interfaces of portal devices of the wireless bridge.